REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 7 are in independent form, and have been amended hereby. New dependent Claims 12 and 13 have been added. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Independent Claims 1 and 7 have been amended hereby to address, and clarify, the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action in paragraph 2.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention, and meet all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,630,161 ("Branco"), in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0115495 ("Rawson") and U.S. Patent No. 5,414,857 ("Jeddeloh"); of the rejection of Claim 3 as being obvious over Branco in view of Rawson, Jeddeloh, and U.S. Patent No. 5,886,537 ("Macias"); of the rejection of Claim 4 as being obvious over Branco in view of Rawson, Jeddeloh, and U.S. Patent No. 5,926,583 ("Iwase"); of the rejection of Claim 6 as being obvious over Branco in view of Rawson, Jeddeloh, and U.S. Patent No. 5,175,837 ("Arnold"); of the rejection of Claim 7 as being obvious over Branco in view of Macias, Rawson, and Jeddeloh; of the rejection of Claim 8 as being obvious over Branco in view of Macias, Rawson, Jeddeloh, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0068626 ("Takeda"); of the rejection of Claim 9 as being obvious over Branco in view of Macias, Rawson, Jeddeloh, Takeda, and U.S. Patent No. 4,876,643 ("McNeil"); and of the rejection of Claims 10 and 11 as

being obvious over Branco in view of Macias, Rawson, Jeddeloh, Takeda, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0200249 ("Gorgone").

The presently claimed invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 1 and similarly in amended independent Claim 7, relates to a signal processing device, including a general-purpose signal processor and a management processor.

The general-purpose signal processor is formed of a plurality of component-processors, each of the component-processors is capable of operating under a plurality of <u>configurations of connections of the plurality of component-processors</u> associated with a plurality of software tasks, and operating independently from other component-processors.

The management processor selects a number of component-processors to operate and for configuring the connections of the plurality of component-processors for loading application programs into the component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of an entire processing.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, alone or in any possible combination, fail to teach or suggest "selecting a number of component-processors to operate and for configuring the connections of the plurality of component-processors for loading application programs into the component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of an entire processing," as recited in amended independent Claim 1, and similarly in amended independent Claim 7.

Support for the current amendments can be found in paragraphs [0059], [0060], [0063], and [0069] of the published application, for example. Relevant sections of these paragraphs are highlighted below for the Examiner's convenience.

[0059] (as to selecting a number of component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of the entire processing)

In the signal processing device 10, the management processor 101 estimates a load for the game and the contents to be processed on the basis of the program of the internal memory 102. Then, the management processor 101 determines the number of component-processors to be operated in accordance with the estimated results, and constructs the operating environments for the game in those component-processors.

[0060] (as to loading application programs into the component-processors)

For example, in the case where the game accompanies an image and a sound as the contents, and image generation, image processing and sound output processing are required to be executed, the management processor 101 transfers an image generation program to first and second component-processors 103A and 103B, transfers an image processing program to a third component-processor 103C, and transfers a sound output program to a fourth component-processor 103D, so as to make the respective programs executable.

[0063] (as to configuring the connection of the plurality of component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of the entire processing)

The image generated in the first and second component-processors 103A and 103B is transferred to the third component-processor 103C through the internal bus B10, then subjected to post-processing such as filtering, and thereafter outputted from the display 15 from the cross bar 104. The sound generated from the fourth component-processor 103D is outputted from the

speaker 17 through the cross bar 104. The internal bus B10 and the cross bar 104 are controlled by the management processor 101.

[0069] (as to configuring the connection of the plurality of component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of the entire processing)

The CPU 11 further generates the video data to the first component-processor 103A from the second and third component-processors 103B and 103C through the internal bus B10, and compounds the video data and the caption and user interface picture together to output the compounded data to the display 15 through the cross bar 104. The CPU 11 transmits the sound data to the fourth component-processor 103D through the internal bus B10, and outputs the sound data to the speaker 17 through the cross bar 104. Similarly, in this case, the internal bus B10 and the cross bar 104 are controlled by the management processor 101. Through the above processing, the user can watch the video with the sound.

Particularly, paragraphs [0059] and [0060] describe that the application programs are loaded into the component-processors in accordance with the estimated results, and paragraphs [0063] and [0069] describe that the connections of the component-processors are changed in accordance with the type of processing. For example, the connections of component-processors in "GAME" (paragraph [0063]) are different from that in "VIDEO and Sound Distribution" (paragraph [0069]).

Rawson, as best understood, merely discloses "selecting a number of component-processor to operate in response to an estimate load of an entire processing". Further, Jeddeloh

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merely discloses selecting one decode means for operation among a plurality of decode means each of which corresponds a different processor type.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "selecting a number of component-processors to operate and for configuring the connections of the plurality of component-processors for loading application programs in the component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of the entire processing," as recited in amended independent Claim 1, and similarly in amended independent Claim 7.

Moreover, Jeddeloh needs a plurality of decode means each of which corresponds to a different processor type, however, in the presently claimed invention, each of component-processors have the same hardware structure, as recited in new dependent Claims 12 and 13, and described in paragraph **[0025]** of the published application, for example. This paragraph is highlighted below for the Examiner's convenience.

[0025] In the entertainment device thus structured, since the <u>operating environments of the respective component-processors can be changed in accordance with the type and/or quantity of demand of signal processing</u>, plural kinds of processing can be executed <u>even in the same hardware structure</u>.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in any possible combination, if any.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the

Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Ay fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Pedro C. Fernandez/
Pedro C. Fernandez
Reg. No. 41,741

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-6311
Fax: (212) 940-8986
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